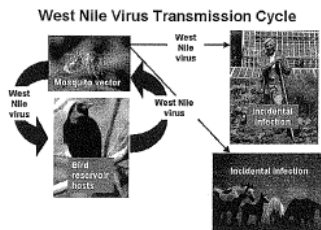


## WHAT IS WEST NILE VIRUS?

West Nile is a mosquito-borne virus that usually causes no symptoms or only a mild flu-like illness that runs its own course. In rare cases it can cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the brain & spinal cord lining). In these rare cases symptoms include high fever, confusion, severe headache, or stiff neck and medical attention should be sought as soon as possible.

West Nile virus is spread to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. A mosquito becomes infected by biting a bird that carries the virus.

You or your children cannot get West Nile from a person who had the disease. West Nile is not spread by person-to-person contact.



## WHAT ABOUT SPRAYING?

Spraying is the least effective component of mosquito control. It does not provide reliable protection against bites because the spray mist must touch the mosquito while in flight and lasts only a short time. It does not significantly reduce the mosquito population because killing adults does not prevent eggs already laid from hatching.

For these reasons spraying should not be viewed as a panacea by the public seeking an easy solution to nuisance bites or disease prevention. Removing breeding spots from around your home prevents the 100-400 eggs a mosquito can lay per day from hatching and is far more effective. Using personal protection is more effective in preventing bites than mass spraying.

Spraying is recommended only where mosquito counts are high enough to warrant its use for the extra knockdown effect it may provide in the middle of a serious disease outbreak. Our state and local health officials monitor the situation as it pertains to us locally and will alert us promptly if needed.

For information about the disease, biology or control of mosquitoes call:  
Tippecanoe County Health Department  
20 N. 3rd Street, Lafayette 765/423-9221

For animal protection call Indiana Board of Animal Health at 317/227-0300.

# WEST NILE VIRUS

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

- Prevention
- Personal Protection



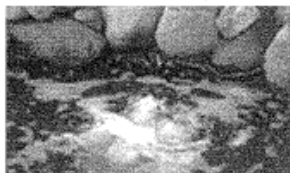
# PREVENTING MOSQUITOES

Mosquitoes need stagnant water to breed, mature and bite. Almost anything that will hold water for 3-7 days will produce mosquitoes. Most mosquitoes do not hunt more than 50 feet from their birth site.

Stop mosquitoes before they become biting size - it's the best strategy to prevent disease transmission and nuisance bites.



Check and clean gutters in the spring and fall.



Aerate ornamental ponds.



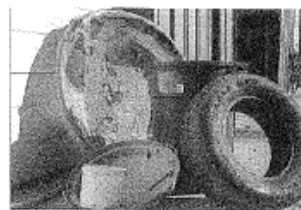
Keep storm drains clear of leaves and grass clippings so water will drain.

Shape ground around your home to promote good runoff.

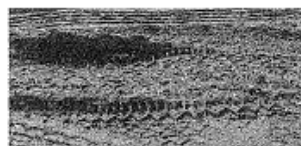
# AT HOME



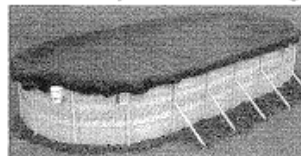
Remove and recycle old tires for a fee at Mr. and Mrs. Tire, Lafayette Wal Mart, McCord Tire, Firestone Tire.



Empty plant drip trays, plastic containers, ceramic pots, wading pools, bird baths and other containers every 3-7 days.



Fill driveway ruts with soil or gravel.



Drain water from pool covers every 3-7 days.

Clean and chlorinate swimming pools. Keep empty and covered if not in use.

# PERSONAL PROTECTION

There are many things you can do to prevent being bitten. Although most people stand little risk of being infected with a serious disease from mosquitoes it is always safest to reduce your exposure.

Plan events to avoid peak mosquito hunting times at dawn and dusk.

Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts when out during peak mosquito times.

Make sure doors and windows have tight fitting, intact screens.

Be sure your repellent works. Vitamin B, sonic devices, and repellent-impregnated wristbands are not effective in reducing biting rates.

A study published in the New England Journal of Medicine July 4, 2002 issue "Comparative Efficacy of Insect Repellents Against Mosquito Bites" (available at [www.nejm.org](http://www.nejm.org)) lists length of protection for each repellent tested. New Repellents for West Nile Fight JAMA 2005 293:2583

For detailed information concerning the safe use of DEET products, especially for children, consult [www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/chemicals/deet.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/chemicals/deet.htm). ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW ALL MANUFACTURER LABEL DIRECTIONS.